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Stephen Daggett to H. R. Miller (25 March 1863)

Stephen Daggett

Hugh R. Miller

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Pentecost 25th March 1863

Col. A. W. Miller

D^r Sir

Yours of 8th is rec^d on yesterday -
 Since I wrote you by Mr. Pined on the 10th, I have been out
 to your place, saw all the black ones - think they have some
 very small kind my previous visit - The fellows are in
 order for making a crop - they were running four ploughs
 with the help of a horse from Mr. Lybur, the two
 Mules, & Edgars Pony - I directed them to commence
 plowing on Monday last, but the rain on that day
 & yesterday prevented - I saw Mr. at the Gran Farm
 yesterday at the burial of Rev. J. A. Miller - he told me
 they had finished bedding up all the ground south of the
 dwelling, with the exception of a small piece in the
 middle ground, which was too wet - this morning is
 a fine clear day, but presume the ploughed land,
 will be too wet to plant to day - there is a piece
 north of the house, on which they can work, until
 the other is in order - I told Edgars to select some
 corn for seed, & have it ready, so that there would be
 no detention - I looked into your corn crib & think
 there is a full supply - of the two cribs standing
 a few feet apart - one was entirely full, the other about
 2/3 full - of fodder there is plenty - I did not
 look at the meat, but Adeline told me, she did
 not think there was enough - I directed them to use

it sparingly, as bacon was worth 50¢ for Bacon and
they would get no more -

Rev. J. D. Miller left home the latter
part of last week, for the purpose of preaching at
Ripley, on Sunday last. On Saturday night, he
lodged at a house 3 miles S.E. from Ripley - on Sunday
morning started for preaching, in company with some
two or three others. While on the way (as I understand
he was met by Lieut. Morrison & two or three others of
the Tennessee (Union men) of the Federal army, who took
them as prisoners. While on the way, Morrison seized
Mr. Miller naked, and took a pistol out of his holster,
& snatched it at him - & in return he (Morrison) shot
him - but one of the prisoners seized that two of
the party broke & ran off. & Morrison fearing that
Mr. Miller would escape, shot him in the right breast
just above the 2^d rib - & then, ^{a second shot} a little above the right
eye. the ball glancing went into the socket of the
eye & out under the left jaw bone - into his left
breast & out under the left arm - Morrison then
took his watch, money, spurs, teeth & plate out of
his mouth, & the sermon which was to have
been preached that day - At the solicitation of
a lady near the place, he gave up the body to
send to his family - & the sermon provided she
would furnish him (Morrison) a copy of it. The
news of his death, reached Pontotoc on Monday
about 12 o'clock am. & the body, about Sun down -
The Coffin was made in Pontotoc & Mr. Stewart

Mached a sermon at the house - where the
body was buried with Masonic & Military
Honors, about 3 o'clock on Tuesday evening -
The circumstances were quite a shock to our
village & a great affliction to the family.

The report is, that a party of
104 (counted by a little boy) went into Pefung -
supposed with an intention of capturing Mr
Mr Miller - & when they succeeded, left immediately.

It is reported that Street is in pursuit
of the murderers, & it is to be hoped that
he may be successful in capturing them -

Mr J. L. Drake, & Andrew Clarke,
arrived about a week since, from Richmond -
Mr Drake will not return - Mr Clarke goes
back next week -

We have news this morning that
the Yankees are crossing the Fallahachun
at New Albany - I am fearful they will
make a dash down river -

Mr Gordon ^{received} a long letter from
James on yesterday, dated Tallahassee. where
he has gone to visit some friends - He says
one of the Yankee officers asked permission of
Genl. Bragg to give ^{James Gordon} him his horse saddle & bridle
& sword - & in another letter dated Shelbyville he
says he has the finest horse in the Yankee army -

I intend going to Aberdeen tomorrow -
have a number of letters to write before going,

I did not intend making my letter so
long when I commenced, & now on looking
it over, feel quite ashamed of it - but
cannot ~~now~~ spend the time in rewriting
it ~~so~~ - so you will excuse such errors
as you may find -

Your friend as all well so far
as I have heard -

Respectfully Yours &c. &c. &c.
S.L.

I'll write regard to the girl Sally - I think
I shall not let Mr. Arrow have her, as
Susan desires (without pay) - She can do
very well as a house hand & keep Hannah
or Adeline at the wheel - they have now
spun enough to fill 80 yds of cloth -
If you wish Sally to leave the place you
will please direct me - What shall be
done about your taxes? -

J Stephen Daggitt



Col Hugh. R Miller
42^d Regt Mississippi Vol.
Franklin
Southampton Co.
Virginia

An account of the murder of
Rev. John H. Miller